

REMARKS

This paper is a timely response to the Final Office Action mailed January 26, 2005. In that Office Action, the Examiner allows Claims 1-3, 7-16, 20-25, 33-40, 43-47, 49-53 and 58-74. The Examiner rejects Claims 4, 5, 17, 26-30, 32, 41, 42, 48, 54-56, and 75-88 and objects to Claims 6, 18-19, 31, and 57.

Amendments to Allowed Claims

Allowed Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 15-16, 20, 33, 35-36, 38-40, 43-47, 51-53, 60-68, and 70-74 have been amended to ease the readability and understandability of these claims. The Applicant submits that these amendments add no new matter to the application and do not affect the scope of these claims. Therefore, the Applicant submits that these amendments can be entered in the application and these claims should remain allowed.

Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Amendments Incorporating Subject Matter of Objected Claims

Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of rejected Claim 5, which depends from Claim 4, and the subject matter of objected Claim 6, which depends from Claim 5. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Therefore, since Claim 4 now incorporated the subject matter of objected Claim 6 and intervening Claim 5, the Applicants submits that Claim 4 is allowable.

Objected Claim 18 has been amended to be made independent and to incorporate the subject matter of rejected base Claim 17 from which Claim 18 previously depended. Objected Claim 19 has been amended to be made independent and to incorporate the subject matter of rejected base Claim 17 from which Claim 19 previously depended. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicant submits that independent Claims 18 and 19, as amended, are allowable.

Objected Claim 31 has been amended to be made independent and to incorporate the subject matter of rejected intervening Claims 27 and 28 and rejected base Claim 4.

Objected Claim 57 has been amended to be made independent and to incorporate the subject matter of rejected intervening Claims 27 and 28 and rejected base Claim 4. Therefore, the Applicants submits that Claim 31 and 57, as amended, are allowable.

Rejected Claims

Rejected Claims 5, 17, 32, 48, and 75 – 88 have been cancelled. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims, in part or as a whole, in one or more subsequent continuation, continuation-in-part, and/or divisional applications claiming priority to the present application.

Rejected Claims 26, 27, 41, 42, and 54- 56 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 4. Rejected Claims 29 and 30 have been amended to be made dependent from Claim 27, which depends from Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 has been amended to be made allowable. Therefore, the Applicant submits that Claims 26-30, 41, 42 and 54- 56 are now allowable based upon their direct or indirect dependency from Claim 4, as amended. The Applicant further notes that Claims 27-30, 41, 42 and 54-56 have also been amended in a manner similar to that described above for the allowed claims so as to improve the readability and understandability of these claims. Therefore, the Applicant submits that the amendments to 27-30, 41, 42 and 54-56 do not affect the allowability of these claims.

Summary

The Applicant submits that the claim amendments presented above may be properly entered in the application under 37 CFR 1.116. The application now consists of Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-16, 18-27, 29-31, and 33-47, and 49-74. The application has 67 total claims and 11 independent claims. A paper presenting the fees for excess claims is attached. The Applicant submits that all pending claims, as amended, of the application are allowable. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 50-1054. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 50-1054.

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Examiner: D'Agosta, Stephen M
Group No. 2683

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patent P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Respectfully submitted,

25 April 05
(Date of Deposit)

Lawrence S. Cohen
(Name of Person Depositing)

L. S. Cohen
Signature

25 April 05
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